

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

SOUDER, Mark E. (Republican)  
Representative, 4th District, Indiana  
Elected 1994 to the 104th Congress  
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



## BACKGROUND

Born: Fort Wayne, Indiana - 18 July 1950  
Home: Grabill, Indiana  
Marital status: Married (Diane) - 3 children  
Religion: United Brethren in Christ  
Education: Indiana Univ, B.S., 1972; Notre Dame. M.B.A., 1974  
Military: None  
Profession: Congressional aide, furniture salesman  
Political: Deputy Chief of Staff for Sen Dan Coats (R-IN), 1991- 93; Legislative Director for Coats, 1989-91; Republican Staff Director, House Select Cmte on Children, Youth and Families, 1984-89. Reelected in 2000 with 62% of the votes; in 2002 with 63%; and in 2002 with 63%.

Rep Souder, a conservative, signed the Contract with America. Critical of the Senate amdt to the FY96 DoD appropriations which added more funding for the Nunn-Lugar program; believes the program has facilitated the upgrading of Russian strategic forces.

In the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress, offered amdt to the DoD auth pertaining to prohibition on use of funds for military operations in Yugoslavia. Wondered how there could be a debate on the DoD auth without dealing with the issue of Kosovo. Suggested that the operation was "certainly no victory because after eleven weeks of bombing, we have less world stability than when we started and a settlement could have been achieved at the beginning. House rejected his amdt that sought to strike a section of the supplemental appns that increases DoD funding transfer authority--believed it was an outrage that the President should be able to take money specifically appropriated for other purposes and use it for a war that is not supported by a majority of Congress. Offered, but subsequently withdrew, an amdt that sought to specify that funding for the Overseas Contingency Operation Transfer Fund shall be available to the extent that the President specifies that items meet a critical readiness need and designates the entire amount as an emergency requirement. Suggested that the vote on the supplemental was not just a vote on a funding bill, but a vote on the war. Realized that it also included funding to rebuild what has been a devastating number of years for the military, where we do not have the readiness and where we have sent troops into battle without being properly prepared and without the munitions necessary. Believed we are about \$20 billion behind in military preparedness "and that is why Congress must step up regardless of the budget question and address the defense issue, but not tied to Kosovo funding." Suggested the supplemental defense appropriations bill is in deep trouble because "how can congress vote against the war one week and then turn around and fund it the next?" Expressed concern about the administration's approach to the war in Yugoslavia; believed the undergirding of the entire foreign policy is a kind of liberal, humanitarian, secular humanist approach that we cn somehow teach people to live together, ironically, through bombing them. Stated that it looked at first as though anthrax might actually be a solution--"But the more you dig into this, the more you realize this is more of a political solution than a substantive medical solution to the question of chemical and biological technology." Conducted hearings on the Defense Security Service backlogs of investigations.

In the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress, worked to get \$7.2 million in MILCON for Fort Wayne. Believed the more the gov't invested in the base, the less likely they are to close it. Hailed the US's anti drug efforts in Bolivia.

Additional: Ran his family's furniture store from 1976-1983. Family owns several shopping centers and a restaurant. He is an antique buff and collects campaign memorabilia.

AF Bases: Fort Wayne MAP (ANG)

COMMITTEES

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE

GOVERNMENT REFORM -- Subcs incl Drug Policy and Human Resources (Chm); Civil  
Service and Agency Organization

RESOURCES